

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated December 10, 2005, claims 4, 8-15, 19, 28, 31, 32, 34 and 49 are canceled. Claims 5-7, 16-18, 20-23, 25, 26, 29, 30, 33 and 35-48 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

I. Claims 4, 10, 13-15, 19, 28, 31, 32, 34 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takasaki et al. (USPN 4,980,736) in view of Kozuka et al. (Translation of JP 09-102627) and Deane et al. (USPN 6,064,091).

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takasaki et al. in view of Kozuka et al., as applied to claim 4, and further in view of Norström (USPN 6,077,752).

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takasaki et al. in view of Kozuka et al., as applied to claim 4, and further in view of Nakayama et al. (USPN 6,157,072).

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takasaki et al. in view of Kozuka et al., as applied to claim 4, and further in view of Fukuda et al. (USPN 5,635,327).

II. The indication that claims 5-7, 16-18, 20-23, 25, 26, 29, 30, 33 and 35-48 are allowable is acknowledged and appreciated.

To expedite prosecution, rejected claims 4, 8-15, 19, 28, 31, 32, 34 and 49 are canceled.

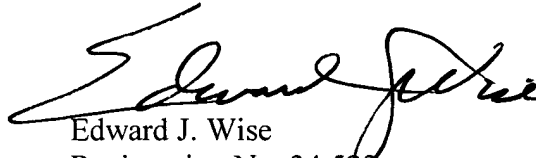
CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, overcomes the rejection of record and is in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendment and favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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